

## **REMARKS**

This amendment accompanies a petition to revive. The present application was originally prepared *pro-se* and included claims 1-4 which contained obvious informalities. The inventor recently contacted the undersigned to prosecute this application. In order to most expediently place the claims in proper form, the original claims have been cancelled and replaced with newly submitted claims. In view of the inventor's unfamiliarity with patent claiming practice, it is submitted that no estoppel should be inferred from rewriting the claims to conform them to accepted claim drafting standards, since the inventor did not understand how to properly claim his invention.

Due to lack of clarity in the files provided to the undersigned as to the exact pagination of the application on file at the U.S. Patent Office, reference has been made to paragraph numbers in the published application to assure no confusion. A copy of the publication is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. The undersigned hopes this will be satisfactory with the Examiner.

The abstract is believed to be informal and has been rewritten.

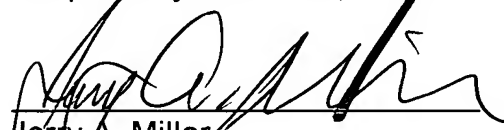
Minimal changes have been made to the specification to make it evident that no new matter is introduced. Although the present specification does not strictly conform to accepted practice, the specification taken in conjunction with the drawings are believed to fully define the invention and meet all legal requirements for a patent application. The undersigned will gladly provide a rewritten specification which more closely conforms to current patent practice if desired by the Examiner.

The originally presented claims were rejected based upon the Harris reference. In view of the claim informalities, new claims have been presented. Although the new claims may deviate somewhat from the exact language used in the specification, it is clear that no new matter has been introduced in these claims. The new claims distinguish over

the Harris reference at least in that the gravitational pull directly on the needle in Applicant's claims causes the needle to indicate the current grade angle. Harris requires a counter-weighted needle with a pivotal mounting of the counter-weight and appears to rely in part upon the pivotal mounting to provide stability. Applicant's structure is significantly simpler in that it relies upon the weight of the needle alone with its movement damped by the fluid in the compartment. Other distinctions are also evident in the claims. Accordingly, consideration of the newly presented claims is respectfully requested.

In view of this communication, all claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested at an early date. It is respectfully requested that the inventor's unfamiliarity with claim-drafting standards be taken into consideration by the Examiner in making a determination as to the finality of the next action. Moreover, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss the present claims prior to issuance of a next action in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dated: 1/12/04

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